

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for improving transmission of digital subscriber line (DSL) signals over a local loop, the system comprising:

a loop extender capacitively coupled to the local loop, the loop extender ~~including~~ comprising:

a plurality of upstream complex impedances coupled in parallel[[,]];

a plurality of downstream complex impedances coupled in parallel[[,]];

a first ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying element coupled to the plurality of upstream complex impedances via a first switch[[,]]; and

a first ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying element coupled to the plurality of downstream complex impedances via a second switch.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first switch is configured to select one of the plurality of complex upstream impedances to approximately match the local loop impedance in a first direction along the local loop.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the first direction is directed from the loop extender to a central office along the local loop.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the second switch is configured to select one of the plurality of complex downstream impedances to approximately match the local loop impedance in a second direction.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the second direction is directed from the loop extender to a customer premises along the local loop.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the loop extender further includes:

at least one additional ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying element coupled in parallel to the first upstream filter/amplifying element; and

at least one additional downstream filter/amplifying element coupled in parallel to the first ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying element.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein a third switch selects either the first ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying element or one of the at least one additional ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying elements to provide upstream DSL signal amplification.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the selection of either the first ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying element or one of the at least one additional ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying elements is based upon local loop length measured from the loop extender to a customer premises.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein a fourth switch selects either the first ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying element or one of the at least one additional ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying elements to provide downstream DSL signal amplification.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the selection of either the first ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying element or one of the at least one additional ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying elements is based upon local loop length measured from the loop extender to a central office.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein the loop extender further ~~includes~~ comprises:

a first transformer coupled to the plurality of upstream complex impedances, a first inverting buffer, and either the first ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying element or one of the at least one additional ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~

~~downstream filter and amplifying elements via a third switch for coupling to couple the plurality of upstream complex impedances, the first inverting buffer, and either the first downstream filter/amplifying downstream filter and amplifying element or one of the at least one additional downstream filter/amplifying downstream filter and amplifying elements via the third switch to the local loop; and~~

a second transformer coupled to the plurality of downstream complex impedances, a second inverting buffer, and either the first ~~upstream filter/amplifying upstream filter and amplifying element or one of the at least one additional upstream filter/amplifying upstream filter and amplifying elements via a fourth switch for coupling to couple the plurality of downstream complex impedances, the second inverting buffer, and either the first upstream filter/amplifying upstream filter and amplifying element or one of the at least one additional upstream filter/amplifying upstream filter and amplifying elements via the fourth switch to the local loop.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the loop extender further ~~includes comprises:~~

a plain old telephone service (POTS) loading coil adapted to be coupled to the local loop for improving transmission of POTS band signals over the local loop; and

a ~~diagnostic/control~~ diagnostic and control unit coupled to the local loop for providing communications, control, and diagnostic functionality.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the ~~diagnostic/control~~ diagnostic and control unit ~~includes comprises:~~

a modem coupled to the local loop for communication with a central office;

an analog multiplexer ~~[[/]]~~ and analog-to-digital converter (AMADC) for controlling the first, second, third, and fourth switches via switch control lines; and

a ~~diagnostic/control processor~~ diagnostic and control processor (DCP) coupled to the modem and the AMADC for processing control signals received via the modem and sending the control signals to the AMADC.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the first transformer is coupled to the local loop via a first bypass relay switch and the second transformer is coupled to the local loop via a second bypass relay switch. .

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising a bypass relay for coupling the first and second bypass relay switches to the DCP.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the DCP upon receiving control signals from the central office, decouples the first and second transformers from the local loop by activating a deactivated bypass relay.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the DCP upon receiving control signals from the central office, couples the first and second transformers to the local loop by deactivating an activated bypass relay.

18. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for~~ of improving transmission of digital subscriber line (DSL) signals over a local loop, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

configuring a loop extender with

a plurality of upstream complex impedances coupled in parallel;

a plurality of downstream complex impedances coupled in parallel;

a plurality of ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying elements coupled in parallel and coupled in series with the plurality of upstream complex impedances; and

a plurality of ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying elements coupled in parallel and coupled in series with the plurality of downstream complex impedances.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the method ~~includes the step of~~ comprises selecting one of the plurality of complex upstream impedances to approximately match a local loop impedance in a first direction along the local loop.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the first direction is directed from the loop extender to a central office along the local loop.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the method ~~includes the step of~~ comprises selecting one of the plurality of complex downstream impedances to approximately match a local loop impedance in a second direction along the local loop.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the second direction is directed from the loop extender to a customer premises along the local loop.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the method further ~~includes the step of~~ comprises selecting one of the plurality of ~~upstream filter/amplifying upstream filter and amplifying~~ elements to provide upstream DSL signal amplification.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the selection of one of the plurality of ~~upstream filter/amplifying upstream filter and amplifying~~ elements is based upon local loop length measured from the loop extender to a customer premises.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the method further ~~includes the step of~~ comprises selecting one of the plurality of ~~downstream filter/amplifying downstream filter and amplifying~~ elements to provide downstream DSL signal amplification.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the selection of one of the plurality of ~~downstream filter/amplifying downstream filter and amplifying~~ elements is based upon local loop length measured from the loop extender to a central office.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim. 18, further comprising ~~including the steps of~~:

configuring the loop extender with

a first transformer for coupling the plurality of upstream complex impedances, a first inverting buffer, and one of the plurality of ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying elements to the local loop; and

a second transformer for coupling the plurality of downstream complex impedances, a second inverting buffer, and one of the plurality of ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying elements to the local loop.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising ~~including the steps of~~:

improving transmission of plain old telephone service (POTS) band signals over the local loop via a POTS loading coil coupled to the local loop; and

providing communications, control, and diagnostic functionality via a ~~diagnostic/control~~ diagnostic and control unit coupled to the local loop.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein ~~the step of~~ providing communications, control, and diagnostic functionality comprises ~~includes the steps of~~:

communicating with a central office via a modem coupled to the local loop;

processing control signals received via the modem;

selecting one of the plurality of downstream complex impedances based upon the processed control signals;

selecting one of the plurality of upstream complex impedances based upon the processed control signals;

selecting one of the plurality of ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying elements based upon the processed control signals; and

selecting one of the plurality of ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying elements based upon the processed control signals.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein the method further ~~includes the step of~~ comprises uncoupling the first transformer and the second transformer from the local loop in accordance with the processed control signals.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for improving transmission of digital subscriber line (DSL) signals over a local loop, the system comprising:

selectable line termination and equalization (SLTE) DSL amplification circuitry capacitively coupled to the local loop via bypass relay switches;

a plain old telephone service (POTS) loading coil adapted to be coupled to the local loop for improving transmission of POTS band signals over the local loop; and

a ~~diagnostic/control~~ diagnostic and control unit coupled to the local loop for receiving and processing control signals from a central office, coupled to the bypass relay switches via a bypass relay for controlling the bypass relay switches, and coupled to the SLTE DSL amplification circuitry via a plurality of switch control lines for controlling the SLTE DSL amplification circuitry.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the SLTE DSL amplification circuitry ~~includes~~ comprises:

a plurality of upstream complex impedances coupled in parallel and selectable via a first switch;

a plurality of downstream complex impedances coupled in parallel and selectable via a second switch;

a plurality of ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying elements coupled in parallel and selectable via a third switch;

a plurality of ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying elements coupled in parallel and selectable via a fourth switch;

a first transformer ~~for coupling to~~ couple the plurality of upstream impedances, the fourth switch, and a first inverting buffer to the local loop;

a second transformer ~~for coupling to~~ couple the plurality of downstream impedances, the third switch, and a second inverting buffer to the local loop;

a first non-inverting buffer ~~for coupling to couple~~ the first switch and the first inverting buffer to the plurality of ~~upstream filter/amplifying~~ upstream filter and amplifying elements; and

a second non-inverting buffer ~~for coupling to couple~~ the second switch and the second inverting buffer to the plurality of ~~downstream filter/amplifying~~ downstream filter and amplifying elements.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the first switch is controlled via a first switch control line, the second switch is controlled via a second switch control line, the third switch is controlled via a third switch control line, and the fourth switch is controlled via a fourth switch control line.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the ~~diagnostic/control~~ diagnostic and control unit, ~~in response to the control signals received from the central office, instructs~~ is configured to instruct the first switch to select one of the plurality of complex upstream impedances in response to the control signals received from the central office.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein the one of the plurality of complex upstream impedances selected approximately matches the local loop impedance in a first direction along the local loop.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the first direction is directed from the SLTE DSL amplification circuitry to the central office along the local loop.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the ~~diagnostic/control~~ diagnostic and control unit, ~~in response to the control signals received from the central office, instructs~~ is configured to instruct the second switch to select one of the plurality of complex downstream impedances in response to the control signals received from the central office.

38. (Original) The system of claim 37, wherein the one of the plurality of complex downstream impedances selected approximately matches the local loop impedance in a second direction along the local loop.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein the second direction is directed from the SLTE DSL amplification circuitry to a customer premises along the local loop.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the ~~control~~ diagnostic and control unit, ~~in response to the control signals received from the central office, instructs is configured to instruct~~ the third switch to select one of the plurality of ~~upstream filter/amplifying upstream filter and amplifying in response to the control signals received from the central office.~~

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 40, wherein the one of the plurality of ~~upstream filter/amplifying upstream filter and amplifying~~ elements selected is based upon local loop length measured from the SLTE DSL amplification circuitry to a customer premises.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the ~~diagnostic/control~~ diagnostic and control unit, in response to the control signals received from the central office, instructs the fourth switch to select one of the plurality of ~~downstream filter/amplifying downstream filter and amplifying~~ elements.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the one of the plurality of ~~downstream filter/amplifying downstream filter and amplifying~~ elements selected is based upon local loop length measured from the SLTE DSL amplification circuitry to the central office.

44. (Currently Amended) A method for improving transmission of digital subscriber line (DSL) signals over a local loop, comprising the steps of:
transmitting control signals and DSL signals over the local loop;

providing DSL signal amplification via selectable line termination and equalization (SLTE) DSL amplification circuitry coupled to the local loop;
receiving the control signals via a ~~diagnostic/control~~ diagnostic and control unit (DCU) coupled to the local loop;
processing the control signals;
selecting SLTE DSL amplification circuitry switch states in accordance with the processed control signals;
sampling DSL signals within the SLTE DSL amplification circuitry;
processing the sampled DSL signals;
selecting SLTE DSL amplification circuitry switch states in accordance with the processed sampled DSL signals to improve SLTE DSL amplification circuitry performance; and
uncoupling SLTE DSL amplification circuitry from the local loop in accordance with the processed control signals.

45. (Previously Presented) A system for improving transmission of digital subscriber line (DSL) signals, the system comprising:

means for transmitting control signals and DSL signals;
means for providing selectable DSL signal amplification coupled to the means for transmitting;
means for receiving the control signals coupled to the means for providing DSL signal amplification;
means for processing the control signals to generate processed control signals;
means for improving performance of the means for providing DSL signal amplification in accordance with the processed control signals;
means for sampling the DSL signals within the means for providing selectable DSL signal amplification;
means for processing the sampled DSL signals to generate processed sampled DSL signals;
means for improving performance of the means for providing DSL signal amplification in accordance with the processed sampled DSL signals; and

means for uncoupling the means for providing DSL signal amplification from the means for transmitting in accordance with the processed control signals.

46. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein:

operations of the first upstream filter and amplifying element are combined into a first discrete element; and

operations of the first downstream filter and amplifying element are combined into a second discrete element.

47. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein:

operations of the first upstream filter and amplifying element are separated into a discrete filter element and a discrete amplifying element; and

operations of the first downstream filter and amplifying element are separated into a discrete filter element and a discrete amplifying element.

48. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein:

operations of each of the plurality of upstream filter and amplifying elements are combined into a first discrete element; and

operations of each of the plurality of downstream filter and amplifying elements are combined into a second discrete element.

49. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein:

operations of each of the plurality of upstream filter and amplifying elements are separated into a discrete filter element and a discrete amplifying element; and

operations of each of the plurality of downstream filter and amplifying elements are separated into a discrete filter element and a discrete amplifying element.